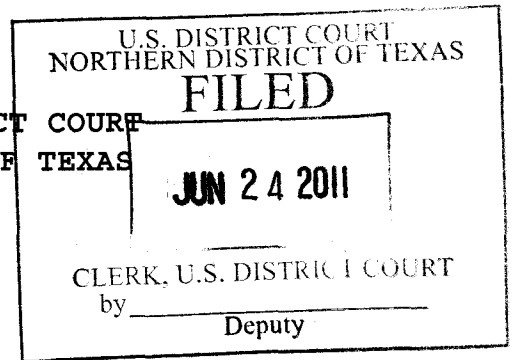


IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
FORT WORTH DIVISION



LONNIE COLLINS,

Petitioner,

v.

RICK THALER, Director,  
Texas Department of Criminal  
Justice, Correctional  
Institutions Division,

Respondent.

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No. 4:11-CV-430-A

MEMORANDUM OPINION  
and  
ORDER

This is a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 filed by petitioner, Lonnie Collins, a state prisoner currently incarcerated in Tennessee Colony, Texas, against Rick Thaler, Director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, Correctional Institutions Division, respondent. After having considered the pleadings, state court records, and relief sought by petitioner, the court has concluded that the petition should be summarily dismissed as successive. No service has issued upon respondent.

I. FACTUAL AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Petitioner is serving a 50-year sentence on his conviction for aggravated robbery of an elderly person in Criminal District Court Number Two of Tarrant County, Texas. Petitioner has previously

sought both state and federal postconviction habeas relief challenging the same conviction. See *Collins v. Cockrell*, Nos. 4:02-CV-522-Y (denied on the merits) (COA denied) & 4:01-CV-782-A (dismissed on pet'r mtn). The court takes judicial notice of the pleadings and state court records filed in petitioner's prior federal habeas petitions.

## II. SUCCESSIVE PETITION

Title 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b) requires dismissal of a second or successive petition filed by a state prisoner under § 2254 unless specified conditions are met. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(1)-(2). A petition is successive when it raises a claim or claims challenging the petitioner's conviction or sentence that were or could have been raised in an earlier petition or otherwise constitutes an abuse of the writ. See *Crone v. Cockrell*, 324 F.3d 833, 837 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2003); *In re Cain*, 137 F.3d 234, 235 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1998).

Petitioner raises three grounds, wherein he claims he was mentally incompetent at trial, he received ineffective assistance of counsel prior to trial, and his conviction is void. (Pet. at 6-7) However, these claims were or could have been raised in his prior petitions. Because petitioner did or could have raised the claims in his prior federal petitions, this petition is successive on its face. Before a petitioner may file a successive § 2254 petition, he must obtain authorization from the appropriate court

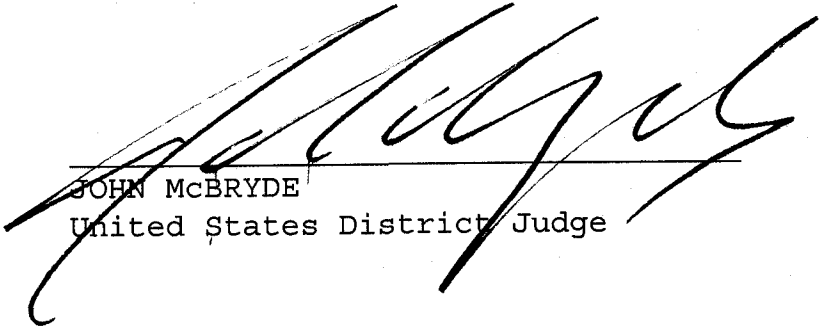
of appeals. 28 U.S.C. § 2244(b)(3)(A). Petitioner has not demonstrated that he has obtained leave to file this petition from the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. Thus, this court is without jurisdiction to consider the petition. *In re Epps*, 127 F.3d 364, 365 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1997); *United States v. Orozco-Ramirez*, 211 F.3d 862, 867 (5<sup>th</sup> Cir. 2000).<sup>1</sup>

For the reasons discussed herein,

The court ORDERS the petition of petitioner for a writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 be, and is hereby, dismissed.

Pursuant to Rule 22(b) of the Federal Rules of Appellate Procedure, Rule 11(a) of the Rules Governing Section 2254 Cases in the United States District Court, and 28 U.S.C. § 2253(c), for the reasons discussed herein, the court further ORDERS that a certificate of appealability be, and is hereby, denied, as petitioner has not made a substantial showing of the denial of a constitutional right.

SIGNED June 24, 2011.



JOHN McBRYDE

United States District Judge

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<sup>1</sup>The filing fee was not paid by petitioner nor did he file an application to proceed *in forma pauperis*.